GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3305
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2016
Malnutrition in Tribal Children
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed the death of tribal children due to malnutrition and severe anaemia across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the menace of malnutrition and anaemia among tribal children and the status thereon?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children but can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections. However, it is estimated that malnutrition is a contributing factor in about 45% of all deaths in under- five children in India.

(c): The following interventions are being undertaken under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of National Health Mission, and funds are being provided each year for carrying out following set of activities towards reducing malnutrition and anaemia among children including tribal children:

â€¢ Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age through ASHA worker and health care provider at health facilities.
â€¢ Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.
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â€¢ Treatment of sick children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), set up at public health facilities. Presently 960 such centres are functional in 26 States and UTs. Incentive to ASHA for tracking of SAM children discharged from NRCs
â€¢ Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6 months to 5 years.
â€¢ Village Health and Nutrition Days and Mother and Child Protection Card are the joint initiative of the Ministries of Health & Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child for addressing the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Monthly Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) are monthly days held at village level in Anganwadi centre where nutrition education is given to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breastfeeding.
â€¢ 'National Iron Plus Initiative' has been launched as an effective strategy for iron folic acid supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, in programme mode through life cycle approach.
â€¢ Promotion for intake of iodised of salt and monitoring salt quality through testing under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme
â€¢ Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), systematic efforts are undertaken to detect nutrition deficiency among children and adolescents respectively and they are treated/ referred appropriately.
â€¢ Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)−'Sabla',and Indira Gandhi Matritva SahyogYojana (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition among women and children. Additionally, the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is engaged in conducting training programmes in nutrition. The Board also generates awareness through nutrition education programmes on the importance of healthy balanced diets especially through the use of locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media. The main aim of all these activities is to improve nutritional outcomes and bring down the level of malnutrition in the country especially amongst women and children.
The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been focusing on universal access to basic health facilities for tribal population including improving their nutritional status with special focus on children.
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